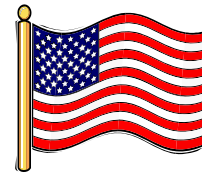


Voice of the Vets Sidney American Legion Post 217



NEWSLETTER

March - April, 2025

Sidney, OH 45365

FROM THE COMMANDER



Now that the first two months of the year are behind us, there is nothing lovelier than looking forward to springtime. Once the days get longer, the weather warms up, and colorful flowers start popping up, we are definitely ready to go outside and enjoy the glory of the season. The promise of Spring's arrival is enough to get us through the next two months! Don't forget on March 9, 2025 to spring forward an hour for Daylight Savings Time!

† In Remembrance: The following Comrades of Post 217 have been transferred to Post Everlasting: **David L. Fields-USN, Vietnam; James R. Jones-USA, Vietnam; Fred C. Kirk-USA, Korea; Orville R. Schoffner-USA, Vietnam; Ron Wilges-USA, Vietnam; and Barry Wolfe-USA, Vietnam.** Please take a moment to remember our Legionnaires and their family.

Welcome New Members! I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new member to our Sidney Post 217: **Christopher Eichelberger-USA.** Thank you for your service and for choosing Post 217. We look forward to having you as a part of our team!

Membership: According to our Membership Chair, Gary Bonnoront, we are currently at 84.33% renewal; thank you to all who have submitted your renewal early to help us achieve this percentage. We still have 59 expired members to renew for 2025 to reach our goal of 100% before the next renewal date begins July 1, 2025 for 2026 membership year. A list of those needing to renew is posted on

the bulletin board in the entrance way into the Canteen.

Americanism and Government Testing: An awards ceremony recognizing our county winners was held on February 5, 2025. The following were County winners representing Post 217: SHS 11th Grade Girl: Riley Randolph, SHS 10th Grade Boy: Jaxxon Payne. The 2nd District Winner representing Post 217 was Riley Randolph.

American Legion Buckeye Boys State: I am actively working on our selection process for eligible candidates to attend Buckeye Boys State at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, June 8-15, 2025. We currently have a total of 7 interested delegates from Sidney High School, Lehman High School and JVS.

4th Grade Flag Education Winners: This is the first year our post has participated in the 4th Grade Flag Education Program. I am pleased to announce our Post Winners were Charlotte Eilerman, Hardin-Houston, scored 100% and River Brumbaugh, Christian Academy, scored 95%. The 2nd District Winners were Charlotte Eilerman, Hardin-Houston, and William Ellinger, Botkins. They will be honored at the County Council meeting on March 12, 2025, 7 p.m. at Ft Loramie Post 355. You are welcome to come and congratulate them on their achievement.

Sunday Brunches: Our Valentines Brunch held February 9 was an immense success. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Legionnaires and Post 217 Auxiliary for all the food preparations and staffing at the event. It would have been impossible to do this without you! Additionally, thank you to Mike Humphrey,

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S.A.L. Commander, for arranging the Rotary Club students who volunteered their community service assisting with the brunch. They were a tremendous asset in making this a success. The next Brunch is scheduled for May 11, 2025, Mother's Day. If you are unable to volunteer to help, at least enjoy the wonderful food and atmosphere. Donations of desserts and salads are always appreciated. The prices are: Free for ages up to 5, \$7 for ages 6-12, and \$15 for ages 13 and above.

Attention Volunteers: Your selfless dedication and support of our events is appreciated. We could not survive without you! Thank you for all you do and continue to do. If you are interested in volunteering for a few hours but do not know where to begin, do not hesitate to reach out to me. I am sure I can find something that will provide you with a sense of purpose, bring fun into your life, meet new friends, and share in comradery with others.

Election of Officers: It is getting close to that time when we need to select our officers for the 2025-2026 membership year. The elections should take place prior to April 1st for timely submission of required documents to the Department. We have several officer positions and the Chaplain's position open. The First Vice, along with the Executive Board will compose a Slate of Officers to be posted on the bulletin board prior to the March Meeting. Please feel free to submit your name for any of the officer's positions. Voting to take place at the March meeting. This is for the required documents to be sent to the Department by the May 1st deadline. If you are interested in holding a position, please contact me at (937) 638-9797 or any Executive Committee member. Become the leader you were meant to be!

Treasurer and Membership Assistants:

Are you looking for a way to serve? Exciting opportunities with shared responsibilities? We are looking for two motivated individuals to be our Treasurer and Membership assistants. One would be working closely with our Treasurer, Rick Lunsford, the other with our Membership Chair Gary Bonnoront to learn the

ins and outs of their roles. This would be valuable to ensure continuity should someone be on vacation or extended leave. It does not require a lot of time, just a desire to serve your fellow veterans. Please call me at (937) 638-9797 or reach out to either Rick or Gary for further information.

Kitchen/Bar Flooring: We are currently looking to upgrade the unsightly flooring behind the canteen bar, in the kitchen, and the back bar area. We have received estimates to replace it with epoxy flooring. I have seen the epoxy flooring at the American Legions in Jackson Center and Ft Loramie. What a wonderful improvement. This will improve the appearance, ease of cleaning, and add to our property value. I think you will agree, we have gradually improved the appearance of the facility over the past several years, this is one of the last major renovations to complete. Before we can proceed, I am asking you to search your heart for any amount of donation you feel you can contribute as the cost is \$11, 710. If you decide to donate, please write on the memo line: Kitchen flooring project. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Upcoming Events:

March 9, 2025: Daylight Savings Time-Spring forward one hour at 2 a.m.

March 9, 2025: 2nd District Spring Conference 9 a.m. Delphos Post 268

March 12, 2025: Shelby County Council American Legion Meeting, 7 p.m. at Fort Loramie Post 355.

March 18, 2025: American Legion Post 217 Meeting, 6 p.m. Election of Officers

March 29, 2025: Vietnam Veterans Day

April 1, 2025: Shelby County Council American Legion Meeting, 7 p.m. at Anna Post 446

April 15, 2025: American Legion Post 217 Meeting, 6 p.m.

In closing, "Though no one can go back and make a brand-new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand-new ending." —Carl Bard

**Your Commander,
Judy Johnson**

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FROM THE 1ST VICE COMMANDER

Membership Goal: 504 members
Paid membership: 423 members

In our last newsletter I presented an idea to hopefully help us increase our membership and member involvement with the American Legion programs, especially among our younger veterans, and also provide a helpful and fun program for our area YOUTH. I am searching for info concerning possible interest from children (local children of veterans, friends, neighbors, or grandchildren) that might be interested in joining an Air Rifle Club. I am also looking for veterans to become involved with our many volunteer programs. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please ask them contact me directly, by e-mail, at Americanlegion217@gmail.com. I would like to find a few young veterans or sons of the American Legion who would be interested in putting together a youth air rifle club and running the program. Please mark your email to the attention of Jerry Muhlenkamp 1st Vice-Commander. I would love to hear any comments people may have.

The American Legion Air rifle program is open to both boys and girls from around the area who are under 18 years old or up to a Senior in High School. You do not need to have a parent or relative who is an American Legion member or veteran.

This is a gun safety education and marksmanship program that encompasses the basic elements of safety, enjoyment, and competition. Competitive shooting is a sport that creates a level playing field for both boys and girls to compete against each other. The program also teaches other skills for the youth that will help them through their developing years. It develops discipline, enhanced concentration, focus, and sportsmanship. The program is competitive all the way up to the Olympics. Please read up about the sport online and see if this may be a program you feel could be helpful in our community. I would like to see this include our neighboring American Legion Posts also.

I would like to tell everyone about one of the benefits of being an American Legion member and becoming involved with our programs. When you become involved, you get to meet many new people who have many different experiences with the military and the VA. Often conversations come up and people learn about new programs being offered that previously prevented veterans from receiving health care from the VA. This could end up being a life-changing event for some of you. So become involved with your fellow veterans and share your experiences and you may be able to make another veteran's life better.

Jerry Muhlenkamp
1st Vice Commander

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FROM THE TRUSTEES

Hello Veterans, Family and Friends.

Hopefully, you are doing well. It has been a rough winter, but we will get through it, God willing. WOW!!!

Here is a recap of the projects since the last newsletter:

- 1) The new Hobart dishwasher was received and installed. What a difference it has made!
- 2) Fultz Flooring has completed the replacement of the flooring in the upper area of the Canteen. We apologize for the inconvenience during the installation process. However, we greatly appreciate everyone's patience and support as we continue to improve the facility.
- 3) Estimates are being obtained to install a ramp off the Patio door.
- 4) We are working to repair/reinforce selected gutter attachments that are falling down.
- 5) The trustees are researching door push bars to facilitate emergency exiting should one arise. This is not

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- 6) a mandatory fix. We want to improve evacuation quickly in case of a fire and keep our facility secure since we are a Private Club.
- 7) We researched estimates for installing handicapped door openers. The cost would be approximately \$25,000. This would require fundraising in order to support this project. If you are interested in donating or helping with a fundraiser, please let us know.

There are more projects coming in the Spring:

- 1) We will be working diligently to complete the Memorial Park to hopefully have a dedication ceremony this year.
- 2) There are 3 park benches still available to be sold for \$750 each. The memorial plaque is included in the price. We would like to purchase two more benches for either side of the front of the building.
- 3) The Memorial located at facility entrance drive needs redone. It will have a light for all to see.
- 4) The Veteran Memorial Park sign is currently being created. Once completed and the weather has improved, it will be placed midway between the memorial bricks and the Gazebo. A brick retaining wall will surround the sign and it will have a light.
- 5) Veteran bricks are still available for purchase at \$50 each. There are granite sponsor pavers available should any business or individual want to donate to have their name displayed. We have the ability to purchase additional pavers if the need arises. So thankful for all who have already donated. God Bless You!
- 8) The Eagle Scout Project is still in progress, Aiden Lee, Troop 95, has a retainer wall in place, and the war medallion is displayed inside the retainer wall.

- 9) There will be handicapped parking spaces next to the Park with parking pavement stripes. Grass to be sowed in the Park.
- 10) We are considering a Garage Sale or Auction to dispense of items/equipment no longer needed in order to better organize the storage areas.
- 11) There is still painting of certain areas to be completed. Please volunteer so others who continually volunteer do not have to do it by themselves.

If you need or have any suggestions, please let us know. We may not be able to do everything, but we will definitely bring before the membership and hopefully implement your suggestion.

We are in desperate need of Honor/Color Guard members. Several members are not physically capable of continuing to volunteer. We should have at least 13-15 members; we are now averaging 5-8. Seneca County has 18 to 20 members. How impressive it is when they honor their fallen veterans. You do not need to be present for every funeral, it is only a small amount of time to render honors to our veterans. Please consider volunteering so we can show our veteran families and friends that we really honor our fellow veterans.

Thank you to all our volunteers, your countless hours are greatly appreciated. Thank you to all who prepare meals, funeral dinners, and brunches. We are blessed to have you!

**On Behalf of the Trustees,
God Bless All and Prayers,**

Jack Curl, Head Trustee

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FROM THE SONS of AMERICAN LEGION

SAL monthly meetings are on the 3rd Monday of each month, 7:00pm, at the Legion. Hope to see you all there. Also, please consider recommending a SAL's membership to any eligible individuals you may know and feel free to contact the SALS commander for any information at (419) 235 9607.

Wishing you a Happy New Year to all!

**Your SAL Commander,
Michael Humphrey**

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American Legion Riders

With over 110,000 American Legion Riders in more than 2,000 chapters across every domestic department and at least three foreign countries, the community is united in service and camaraderie.

VISIT: <https://www.legion.org/riders>

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FROM THE AUXILIARY



With all the cold weather we have been having, we are all looking forward to Spring.

The Auxiliary is hosting the District meeting on Sunday, March 2nd. Ideas and information is shared by everyone at this event.

On Tuesday, March 18th, the Auxiliary is sponsoring a local blood drive at the Legion. I hope everyone who is able will take the time to donate at this time.

Scholarship Applications are available at the American Legion canteen. They need to be returned to the Legion by April 4th.

Please call me if you have any questions.

**Linda Limbert,
Post 217 Auxiliary President**

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Wednesday Bid Euchre Night

We are looking for Legionnaires, Auxiliary, & SAL members to join us for Wednesday Bid Euchre Night.

Spouses are welcome!

If interested, please provide name and telephone number to the Canteen and we will contact you once we have enough members interested in participating.

A Special
“Thank You!”
to our volunteers
who help out
at our Post and
in our Canteen!

**WE INVITE YOU TO VISIT
THE CANTEEN AND SHARE SOME
GOOD TIMES WITH YOUR FRIENDS!**

**AMERICAN
LEGION**

Post Officers:

- Judy Johnson, Commander
- Jerry Muhlenkamp, 1st Vice Commander
- Gary "Tiny" Stockton, 2nd Vice Commander
- Patricia Hamberg, Adjutant
- Eric Lunsford, Treasurer
- Jim Moorman, Chaplain

Executive Committee:

- Phil Wogoman
- Bill Knasel
- Jerry Muhlenkamp
- Jim Neilan
- Buddy Terry

Board of Trustees:

- Jack Curl
- Patricia Hamberg
- Bill Knasel
- Brian Mantor
- Jerry Schmidt
- Gary "Tiny" Stockton

VISIT OUR WEBSITE - WWW.SIDNEYLEGIONPOST217.ORG